

I demand that public hearings regarding media ownership be held in my state! Furthermore, at each hearing local citizens must be allowed to speak. These Meetings must be held in the largest population centers to afford the greatest number of citizens to conveniently attend.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, I have heard that FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. To justify these actions, deceptive, industry-sponsored research data was used. This is unacceptable.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

Please require 2 public meetings for every 1 closed door meeting with major media owners. I also would like to inform you that as a citizen, I do not feel the Media in America is serving in the public interest. This is due to too few owners controlling too much of the media. I call on you to toughen media ownership rules. Require that every community or "media market" have at least 4 locally owned radio stations and at least 2 locally owned television stations. Require that at least 1 locally owned television station broadcast in the VHF spectrum. Additionally, require radio and television broadcasters to divest any interest in printed media as a condition of being granted a broadcast license. It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.